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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

COUNTRY USSR (Kursk Oblast)

DATE DISTR. 27 May 1955

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SUBJECT Urban Area of Svoboda

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

1. Svoboda (N 51-59, E 36-17), Kursk Oblast, was a town of approximately 1500 inhabitants with a total area of approximately 2x2 $\frac{1}{2}$ kilometers. (See enclosure for source's memory sketch of Svoboda and a pin-point location of the Svoboda Electro-Mechanical Plant (SEMZ)).
2. Svoboda was not serviced by a railroad but it was connected to Budanovka (N 51-57, E 36-22) where there was a railway station by a road. The Svoboda - Budanovka road was nearly six kilometers long. It was constructed of gravel, was six meters wide, and had drainage ditches on both sides. Telegraph and telephone lines, 50 meters apart, ran along the south side of the road from Svoboda to Budanovka.
3. The railroad in Budanovka was a double-tracked line which was the main rail line between Moscow and Kursk. It was in excellent condition and was under constant maintenance. All railroad stations between Moscow and Kursk and farther south along this line to the Caucasus had either been renovated or rebuilt. All foreign visitors to the USSR used this line exclusively in travelling from Moscow south. All stations were cleared of unsavory looking characters by the military whenever governmental trains with VIPs approached. All passenger cars and sleepers on this line were manufactured in East Germany.
4. Attached to this report is an enclosure consisting of a town plan of Svoboda. Following is a legend for this enclosure. Numbers in parentheses refer to numbers on the enclosure.
 - (1) Machine tractor station (MTS) - three or four brick buildings which were still under construction in summer 1954. The former MTS consisted of one wooden barracks-type building.

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- (2) Workers' houses - wooden, one-story, single apartment buildings of various sizes. They were built of wood and had gable roofs covered with roofing paper. These buildings were called "Finnish" houses. They were pre-fabricated and were owned by the SEMZ.
- (3) Rayon bank (Raybank) - a brick-stucco, two-story building, 12x12x10 meters. It had an iron, hip roof.
- (4) Plant director's house - a brick and white stucco, single-story building, 20x12x15 meters; it had an iron, hip roof.
- (5) Housing for workers of the industrial-trade school(22) - red brick, single-story building, 35x10x5 meters; with iron, gable roof. There were altogether two of these buildings.
- (6) Private garden plots - each family was allowed 0.15 hectares of land for their own plot for raising vegetables, etc. This area was owned by the plant.
- (7) Plant chief engineer's house-a wooden stucco, single-story, grey house, 16x8x5 meters; it had a tile, gable roof.
- (8) Militsiya headquarters-a red brick, single-story building, 18x8x5 meters with an iron, hip roof. Some windows were barred and the cellar served as a temporary prison where prisoners were sent before they were transported to the permanent prison in Kursk. The building had two entrances; a militsiya soldier stood guard at front entrance. Source believed that 10-12 militsiya worked in this building.
- (9) Militsiya stables, wattle constructed buildings covered with stucco, 15x6x4 meters, with thatched roofs. The stables held four or five horses.
- (10) Shops of the industrial-trade school (masterskiye) - a brick, stucco, two-story building, 80x20x15 meters, with dark-red, iron, gable roof and central heating. On the first floor were heavy lathes and other machines, on the second floor, light lathes and various other light machines.
- (11) Temporary water tower-a red brick, cylindrically shaped installation. The base of the tank was approximately 20 meters in diameter and 2 meters high; the "tank" part of the tower was approximately 4.5 meters in diameter and 6 meters high. Total capacity was 90 cubic meters, but the tank was filled only to 40 cubic meters.
- (12) Rayon hospital (Raybolnitsa) -a brick and tan stucco, two-story building, 40x15x21 meters with a dark red, iron, gable roof. Several new sections of the same type material and style had been added on to the old main building.
- (13) Svoboda Electro-Mechanical zavod (SEMZ). 1
- (14) Rayon club (Rayklub)- a brick and stucco, two-story building, 30x12x10 meters, with an iron, gable roof. This building was reinforced with steel girders.
- (15) Rayvoyenkomat-a wooden, dark-brown, single-story building, 12x12x5 meters, with a dark-red, hip roof. There were two entrances and nearly all the windows were barred. All windows facing the street were barred.

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- (16) Privately-owned homes of plant workers - These structures included all types of single-story constructions. Roofs were iron, wooden, and covered with roofing paper, or thatched. Wooden and thatched roofs were much more common because sheet iron for roofs could be obtained only at the SEMZ plant. All these houses were one-family dwellings.
- (17) Wooden bridge - a 30x5-meter structure with a five-ton capacity. It spanned the Tuskar River.
- (18) Gravel road - Six meters wide, built on a one-meter fill with drainage ditches on both sides. Telephone and telegraph poles spaced 50 meters apart ran along the left side of the road from Svoboda Railroad Station and Budanovka. The road was in fair condition.
- (19) Water wells, 35x40 meters deep - The wells were approximately 500 to 600 meters from the first pump station.
- (20) Water-pumping stations - two wooden buildings, one-story high, with one pump in each building. Water pressure was natural. There was one guard for the two buildings. He constantly checked water pressure and pump operation.
- (21) Creamery (maslozaved) - a brick, stucco, single-story building, 20x10x15 meters with an iron, gable roof. Approximately eight people worked at the creamery.
- (22) Industrial trade school - occupied three two-story buildings which were built of brick and stucco. The buildings were 10x10x10 meters and they had dark-red, iron, gable roofs. They were used for classrooms, mess, and living quarters for students. The school had approximately 100 students. The addition to the church (23) was a former monastery, a brick, two-story building with a cellar and without a roof. This part of the building was not being utilized for anything.
- (23) Church building - a brick and stucco, single-story building. It was utilized as a warehouse by the industrial trade school and was school property.
- (24) Temporary water pumping station, first-stage - a brick, two-story building partially destroyed during World War II. Only one corner on the first floor was utilized for the pump station. It contained two pumps, one working, and one reserve pump. Water was pumped to the brick water tower (11). A reservoir with a capacity of 90 cubic meters was also located in this building.
- (25) Brick works - open wooden sheds. The works operated only in summer. Source saw this installation from a distance only and could not give the layout or describe production. Source believed that 20 to 30 people worked there.
- (26) Post office - a brick and stucco, two-story building, 10x10x10 meters with iron, hip roof.
- (27) Rayon Communist Party headquarters (Raykompartiya) - a brick and stucco two-story building, 18x9x12 meters, with an iron, hip roof. There were two entrances, one in front and one in the rear.

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- (28) Restaurant (gastronom) - a brick and stucco, two-story building, 20x12x10 meters with a dark-red, hip roof.
- (29) Hardware store - a brick and stucco, two-story building, 9x8x8 meters, with a dark-red, hip roof. There was a warehouse on the ground floor and a store on the second floor.
- (30) Bookstore - a brick and stucco, single-story building, 9x8x5 meters with a dark-red, hip roof.
- (31) Bakery - a brick and stucco, single-story building, 12x12x5 meters, with a dark-red, hip roof.
- (32) Radio station - a red-brick, single-story building, 4x4x4 meters. Only one person worked in this installation. All radio programs originated in Moscow, Kharkov, Kiev, Kursk, and other cities and this station carried merely transcribed broadcasts, except for local announcements of sports, meetings, demonstrations, etc.
- (33) General store - a brick and stucco, single-story building, 15x8x5 meters, with a dark-red, hip roof.
- (34) Restaurant-cafe (chaynaya) - a red brick, single-story building, 25x10x6 meters. The building had a half cellar and an iron, gable roof.
- (35) Rayon Executive Committee Headquarters (Rayispolkom) - a red brick, two-story building, 20x10x10 meters, with a dark-red, iron, hip roof.
- (36) Elementary school - a red brick, single-story building, 20x20x5 meters with a dark-red, iron hip roof.
- (37) Ten-year school (Desiyatiletka) - a brick, two-story building, 30x20x10 meters; with a dark-red, iron, hip roof.
- (38) Grocery store - a brick, stucco, single-story building, 12x12x5 meters; with a dark-red, hip roof.
- (39) Plant apartment houses - two stucco, two-story buildings, 40x20x12 meters; with dark-red, iron, gable roofs. Both buildings were identical. Source did not know either the number of apartments or occupants.
- (40) Marketplace - 100x50 meters consisting of an open square with permanent tables and benches dug into the ground.
- (41) Three apartment workers' houses - 1½ stories high with steep, tile roofs. There were two buildings of this type. They were called "German" style houses and belonged to the SEMZ.
- (42) Five-apartment worker's houses - wooden, single-story buildings with wooden roofs covered with roofing paper.
- (43) Stadium - 180x100 meters; consisting of a leveled field, with no stands, seats, or any other type of construction.
- (44) Priest's house - a red brick, single-story building, 9x9x4 meters, probably with an iron roof.

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- (45) Church - a brick, white-stucco building, 35x25x25 meters. This building was still being utilized as a church.
- (46) Cemetery - 200x200 meters, not surrounded by a fence.

Enclosure: Memory sketch of village of Svoboda (N 51-59, E 36-17).

- 1.  for a detailed description of SEMZ.

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